



TOM CILMI
Suffolk County Legislator
10th District

For Immediate Release

Date: March 20, 2014

Contact: Maria Barbara
(631) 854-0940 (office)
(516) 457-2573 (cell)
maria.barbara@suffolkcountyny.gov

SUFFOLK ON-LINE PARKS RESERVATION SYSTEM NEEDS OVERHAUL
Legislator Cilmi calls for public input

Legislator Tom Cilmi, as a member of the Suffolk County Legislature's Parks & Recreation Committee, is calling on Suffolk County residents for input on how to improve the County's on-line parks reservation system.

Cilmi said, "Through my four plus years as a Legislator, I have heard several complaints about the lack of user-friendliness of our reservation system. The issues came to a head recently when more than thirty residents, who made reservations by telephone for Fourth of July week, were told that their reservations were being cancelled."

Cilmi received numerous calls from outraged constituents after the Parks Department notified them that a glitch in the system improperly allowed them to make early reservations for the campgrounds at Smith Point Park by phone. "On the other hand," Cilmi said, "you had all these other folks who went on-line at the prescribed time only to find that reservations had already been made."

Parks Commissioner Greg Dawson announced at a recent Committee meeting that the contract with the existing vendor that maintains the on-line reservation system is expiring and that the County had sent out a request for proposals.

Cilmi, who initially suggested holding a public hearing to address residents' concerns, is now calling on residents who have used the system to email or write to his office with suggestions on how to improve the system. "It's the residents who ultimately pay for the reservation system and pay for our parks with their tax dollars, and it's our residents who use the system. It only makes sense that they should have a say in how we operate," he said.

County residents who have used the system in the past and have suggestions or concerns, as well as anyone who has concerns about the County's parks, should email Legislator Cilmi at tom.cilmi@suffolkcountyny.gov, or write to him at: Legislator Tom Cilmi, 96 East Main Street, East Islip, NY 11730. All comments will be forwarded to the Parks Department.